

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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13

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9938

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 6523

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: OVIP, AF

SUBJ: BIOGRAPHIC BRIEF ON MINISTER OF PLANNING ALI

AHMAD KHURRAM

1. FOLLOWING FOR DEPARTMENT'S USE IN PREPARING BIOGRAPHIC SHEET FOR THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO AFGHANISTAN IS BIO ON MINISTER OF PLANNING ALI AHMAD KHURRAM.

2. MINISTER OF PLANNING ALI AHMAD KHURRAM IS AN ENGAGING, DRIVING, BUTTON-DOWN-COLLAR TYPE IN HIS EARLY FORTIES. HIS ACADEMIC BACKGROUND, WHICH INCLUDES A US MA, IS STRONG BUT DOES NOT EXTEND BEYOND ECONOMICS. HIS ENTIRE CAREER HAS BEEN WITHIN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING. DEPUTY MINISTER AT THE TIME OF THE 1973 COUP, HE MANAGED TO SURVIVE THE RESULTING POLITICAL CROSS CURRENTS AND HAS EMERGED CLEARLY ESTABLISHED AS A DAOUD MAN. INDEED HIS LOYALTY AND ACCESS TO THE PRESIDENT ARE SUCH THAT SOME ALLEGE THAT DAOUD RUNS THE MINISTRY THROUGH KHURRAM. UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO DELEGATE RESPONSIBILITY HE WORKS LONG HOURS, AND SPREADS HIMSELF THIN ENOUGH FOR HIS WORK TO EARN THE ALLEGATION FROM DETRACTORS OF BEING RATHER SUPERFICIAL. PRESENT WORKING RELATIONS WITH THE US MISSION ARE CORDIAL THROUGH KHURRAM CAN AND HAS ON OCCASION SNIFFED THE WIND AND REPRESENTED HIMSELF AS CLOSER TO THE SOVIETS. HE SPEAKS FLUENT ENGLISH.

ELIOT

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